

# PSCC Meeting

## Vital Connection Brief



# Purpose

- To prepare for emergencies within the State and Nation, interoperability of communications between Local, County, State, Federal, and Tribal entities



# Purpose

- To bring together the communications experts and their equipment.



# Purpose

- The goal is to test interoperability, recognize areas for improvement, and validate that our collective communications infrastructures that can support the Vigilant Guard State wide exercise in November 20







# Sponsored

- AZ Vital Connection 2011 was sponsored by the U.S. Northern command in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs.
- Northcom sponsors two Vital Connection Exercises a year.
- AZ Vital Connection had a budget of 50,000



# Sponsored



## Northcom Sponsored

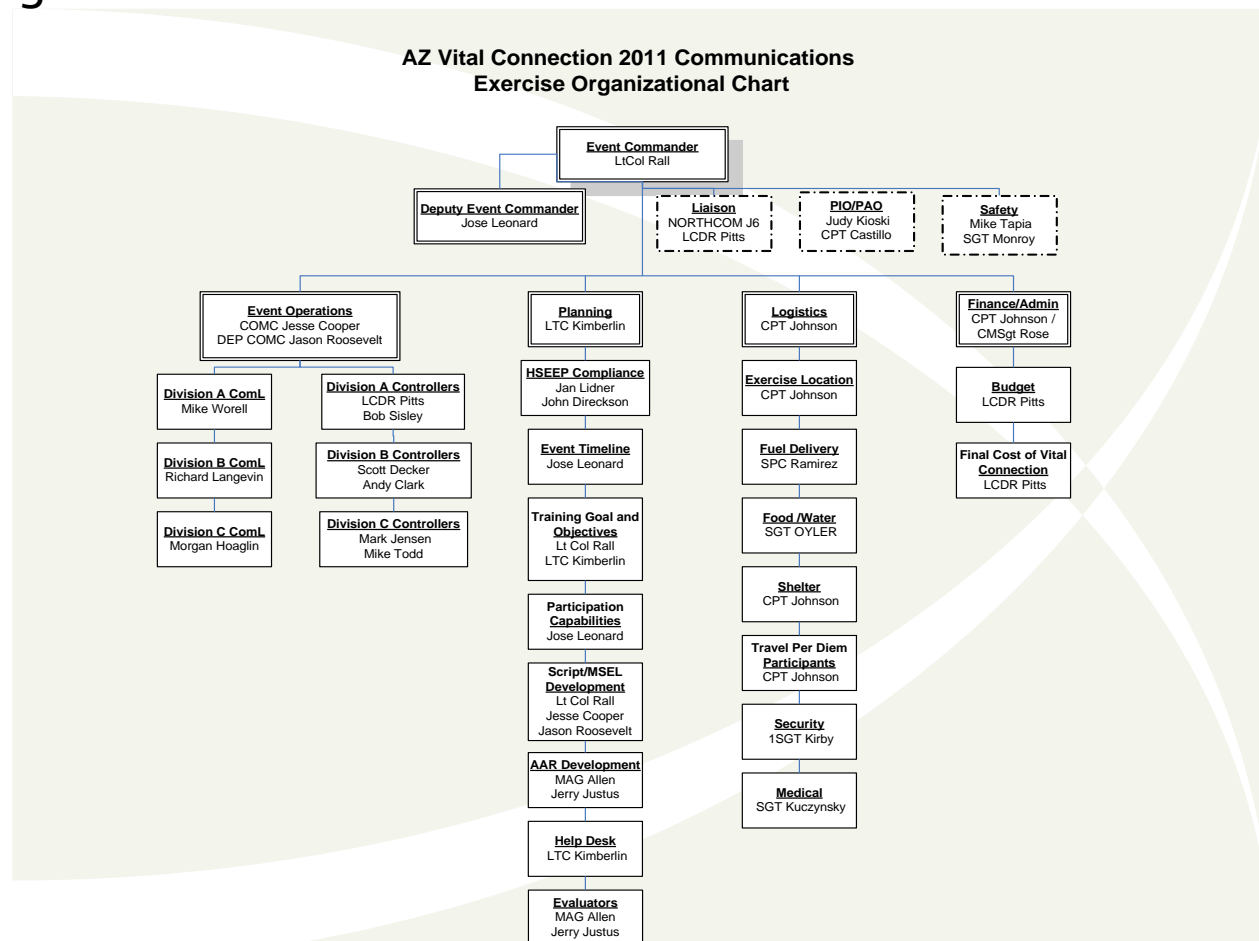
- All Logistical Needs
  1. Fuel for mobile platforms
  2. Food for each day of the event
  3. Lodging for volunteers
  4. Documentation

Northcom did not sponsor per diem or salary.

# Exercise Guidance

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

## ICS Structure



# Arizona Vital Connection 2011 Training Objectives

## Training

1. ICS 205 Overview (COML identification, responsibilities)
2. DOD/JISCC/Mobile Comm/State and Local Comm Capabilities

## ICS

1. Establish/Create Incident Action Plan
2. Identify COML, complete 205, 205a
3. Adjust 205 to integrate additional resources
4. Develop ICS 205 addendum to depict CIE
5. Identify Participant Agency personnel, complete 204

## Information Sharing

1. Test and evaluate DOD/NG force capability to connect to Common Information Sharing Site (DCO, HSIN, Web, EOC)
2. DOD/NG/Local forces to connect to AZ state Common Information Site (WEB EOC)
3. AZNG shares operational info with subordinates, adjacent, and higher commands
4. Evaluate data flow through channels
5. Send email via WINLINK HF





# VC Training Objectives Continued



## Radio Communications

1. Perform daily communications with Comm. Coordination Team
2. Exercise, Test, Evaluate the ability to utilize **HF, VHF (LO- High), UHF, 800, Trunked communications.**
3. Exercise **MARS, RACES, AIRS** networks
4. Radio Bridge and Patches
  - a. Exercise, Test, Evaluate the ability to patch across multiband frequencies
  - b. Troubleshoot interference or cross-connection problems
  - c. Test and Validate JISCC ACU 1000 to JISCC ACU 1000 ROIP
  - d. Provide Long Haul HF patch across multiband incident radios with NGB/JOC/DOD

## Contingency Communication

1. DOD mobile comm. reconfiguration to support state and local agencies
2. Exercise, test, and evaluate Voice (VOIP/ROIP) and Data through satellite terminals to responders
3. Exercise, test, and evaluate Interagency sharing of network data infrastructure
  - a. JISCC internet to local agency

# VC Training Objectives Continued

## Full Motion Video (FMV)

1. Transmit FMV feeds from DOD to DHS/State first responders
2. Transmit FMV feeds from DHS/State first responders to DOD
3. Transmit NG GIIEP video to DHS/State, DOD, JSOC

## Video Teleconference

1. Test and Evaluate NORTHCOM's ability to establish and use an IP-based VTC Bridge
2. Test and Evaluate AZNG's ability to establish and use an IP-based VTC Bridge or the ability to patch IP with BRI/PRI
3. Secure WEB conference with DOD equipment?



# Participating Agencies

## 50+

### Local



### County



### State



### Federal



### Tribal



### Volunteer



### Vendors



# Exercise Schedule

- Control Cell
- Communication Coordinator
- Communications Leader
- Lead Controller
- Controllers
- Lead Evaluator
- Evaluators
- Exercise Commander
- Players
- Observers
- Media Personnel
- Operations Staff

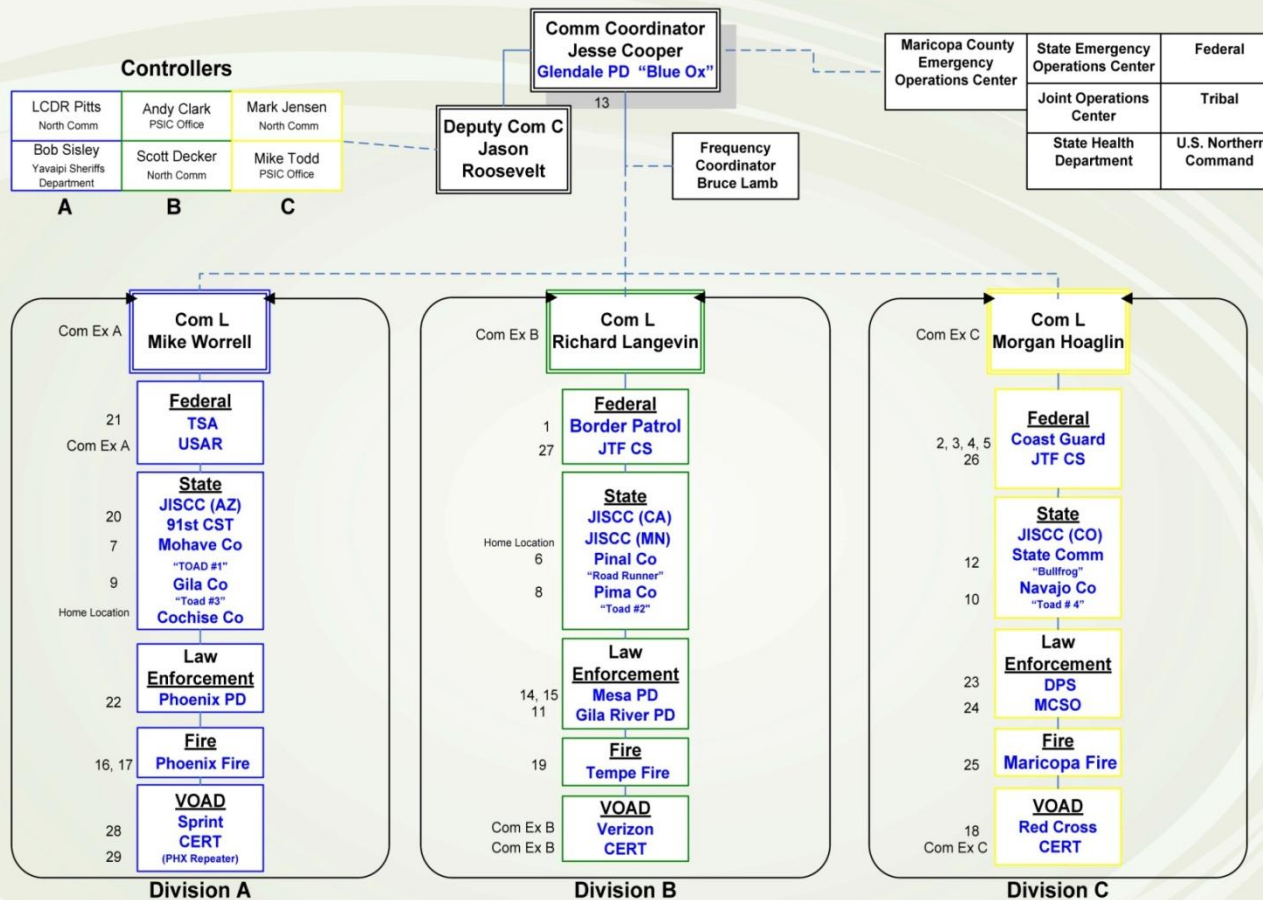


Time	Activity	Location
<b>Monday September 12</b>		
Set up / Orientation / Training		
06:00 to 06:45	Exercise Control Meeting ( <b>Staff Only</b> )	State Conference Room M5101
07:00 to 11:00	Platform set up and registration	Bldg M5101
11:00 to 12:30	Lunch	Exercise Floor Bldg M5101
12:30 to 13:30	Orientation	Russell Auditorium Bldg M5101
13:30 to 16:30	Seminars	Various Class Rooms (see map)
<b>Tuesday September 13</b>		
Training / Free Play/ Media Day		
07:00 to 07:45	Exercise Control Meeting ( <b>Staff Only</b> )	State Conference Room M5101
07:00 to 10:00	Seminars	Various Class Rooms (see map)
10:00 to 11:00	COML Team Meetings	Unified Command Center (Blue Ox)
11:00 to 12:30	Lunch	Exercise Floor Bldg M5101
12:45 to 16:30	Free Play	Exercise Area
12:45 to 16:30	Media Authorized	Exercise Area
16:30 to 17:30	Hot Wash	Russell Auditorium Bldg M5101
<b>Wednesday September 14</b>		
Main Exercise		
07:00 to 07:45	Exercise Control Meeting ( <b>Staff Only</b> )	State Conference Room M5101
08:00 to 09:00	COML Team Meetings	Unified Command Center (Blue Ox)
09:00 to 11:30	Start Main Exercise	Exercise Area
10:30 to 11:30	Distinguished Visitors	Exercise Area
11:00 to 12:30	Lunch	Exercise Floor Bldg M5101
13:00 to 16:00	Continue Main Exercise	Exercise Area
16:00 to 17:00	Hot Wash	Russell Auditorium Bldg M5101
<b>Thursday September 15</b>		
Free Play / Demobilization / After Action Report		
07:00 to 07:45	Exercise Control Meeting ( <b>Staff Only</b> )	State Conference Room M5101
08:00 to 11:30	Free Play	Exercise Area
11:00 to 12:30	Lunch	Exercise Floor Bldg M5101
12:30 to 14:00	After Action Report	Russell Auditorium Bldg M5101
14:00 to 16:30	Demobilization	Exercise Area

# Seminar Schedule

Time	Activity	Location
<b>Monday September 12</b>		
13:30 to 16:30		
13:30 to 14:30	HSIN / WEB EOC	Joint Information Center (JIC)
13:30 to 14:30	NIFOG / AIRS / TICP / TIC-FOG	Russell Auditorium (M5101)
13:30 to 14:30	Deep Water Horizon Lessons Learned	Aviation Classroom B
13:30 to 15:00	Raytheon (ACU)	Aviation Classroom A
15:00 to 15:30	JISCC / CST	Russell Auditorium (M5101)
15:30 to 16:30	North Com / FEMA / CBP	Russell Auditorium (M5101)
<b>Tuesday September 13</b>		
07:00 to 10:00		
07:00 to 08:00	North Com / FEMA / CBP	Aviation Classroom A
08:30 to 09:30	HSIN / WEB EOC	Joint Information Center (JIC)
08:30 to 09:30	NIFOG / AIRS / TICP / TIC-FOG	Russell Auditorium (M5101)
08:30 to 09:30	Deep Water Horizon Lessons Learned	Aviation Classroom B
09:30 to 10:00	JISCC / CST	Russell Auditorium (M5101)
07:00 to 16:30	Raytheon ACU 1000	Exercise Area
16:30 to 17:30	Hot Wash	Russell Auditorium Bldg M5101
<b>Definition</b>		
<b>ACU</b>	The ACU can simultaneously cross-connect different radio networks, connect radio networks to telephone or SATCOM systems, and network RoIP/VoIP talk paths.	
<b>AIRS</b>	Arizona Interagency Radio System	
<b>CBP</b>	U.S. Customs and Border Protection	
<b>CST</b>	Civil Support Team	
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency	
<b>Hot Wash</b>	Term Used to describe an after action discussion.	
<b>HSIN</b>	Homeland Security Information Network	
<b>JISCC</b>	Joint Incident Communications Capability	
<b>NIFOG</b>	National Interoperability Field Operations Guide	
<b>North Com</b>	U.S. Northern Command	
<b>TIC-FOG</b>	Tactical Interoperable Communications – Field Operations Guide	
<b>TICP</b>	Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan	
<b>Web EOC</b>	Web-enabled crisis information management system.	





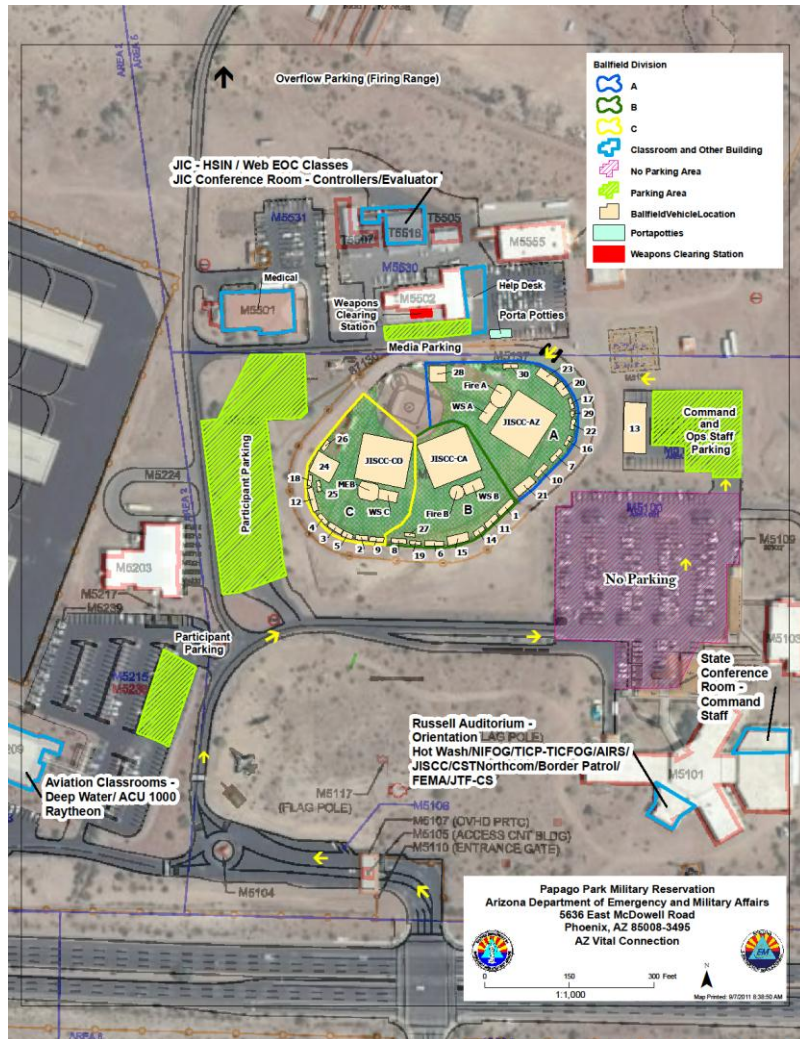
## AZ Vital Connection 2011 Communications Exercise Operations Organizational Chart

Updated on 9/6/2011

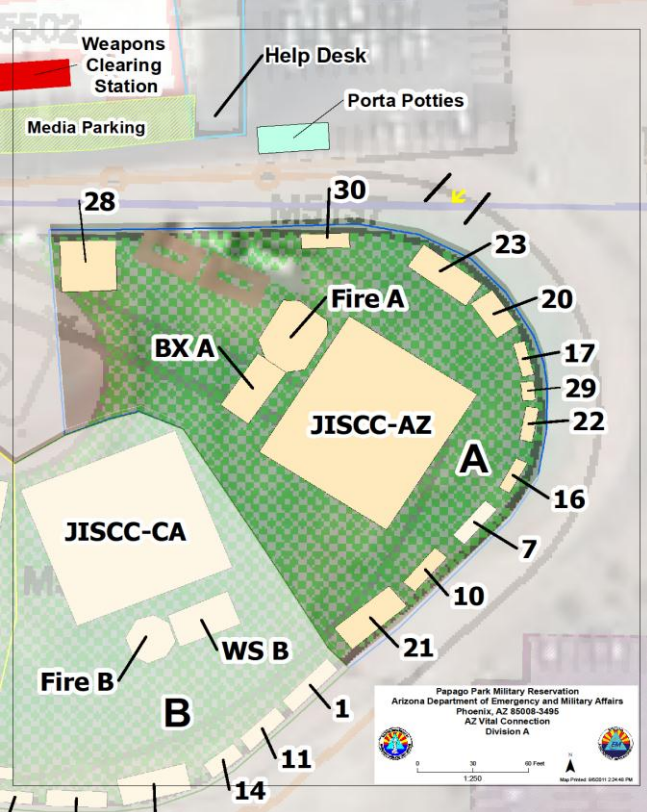


# Exercise Site Maps

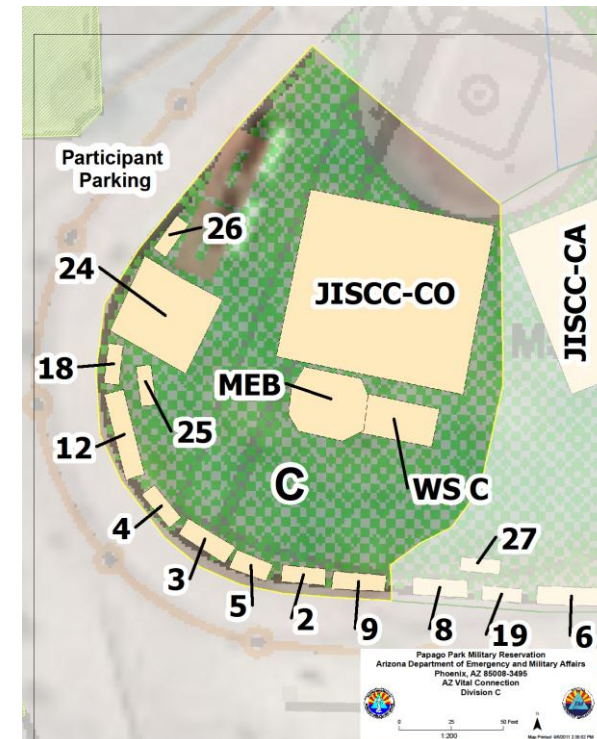
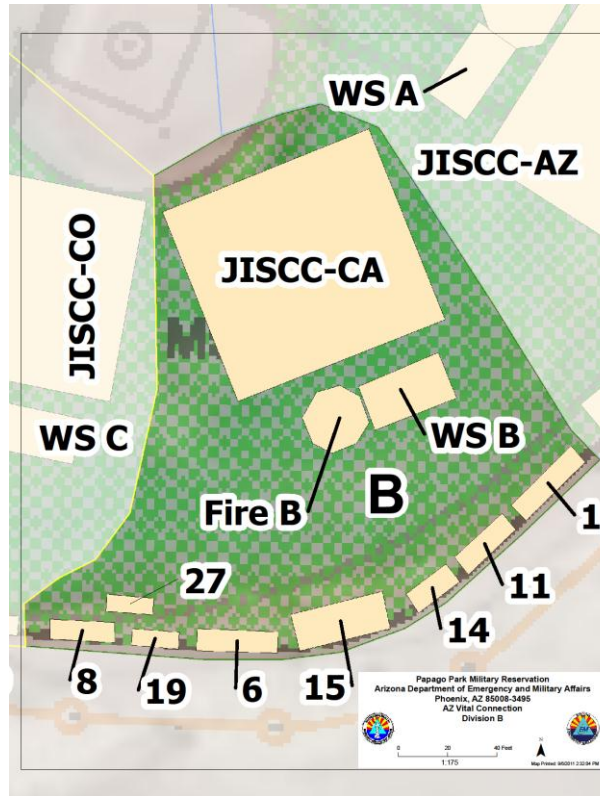
## 32 Platforms



# ON MAP	PLATFORM	AGENCY	DIVISION
1	CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	B
2	USCG F-350	U.S. Coast Guard	C
3	USCG FEATHERLIGHT	U.S. Coast Guard	C
4	USCG F-350	U.S. Coast Guard	C
5	USCG CAMSPAC TCC	U.S. Coast Guard	C
6	ROAD RUNNER	Pinal County Emergency Management	B
7	TOAD #1 - MOHAVE	Mohave County Emergency Management	A
8	TOAD #2 - TUSCON	Pima County Emergency Management	B
9	TOAD #3 - GILA	Gila County Emergency Management	C
10	TOAD #4 - SHOW LOW	Navajo County Emergency Management	A
11	GILA RIVER	Gila River Police Department	B
12	BULLFROG	AZ State Command & Communication Vehicle	C
13	BLUE-OX	City of Glendale Police Department	CMD
14	MPD F-700	City of Mesa Police Department	B
15	MPD TRAILER	City of Mesa Police Department	B
16	PHX FIRE #1	City of Phoenix Fire Department	A
17	PHX FIRE #2	City of Phoenix Police Department	A
18	RED CROSS	American Red Cross	C
19	TEMPE FIRE	City of Tempe Fire Department	B
20	91st CST	AZ Civil Support Team	A
21	TSA	Transportation Security Agency	A
22	PHX PD	City of Phoenix Police Department	A
23	DPS	Arizona Department of Public Safety	C
24	MCSO	Maricopa County Sheriff's office	C
25	MARICOPA FIRE	Maricopa Fire Department	C
28	SPRINT	Sprint/Nextel Wireless	A
26,27	JTF CS	Joint Task Force Civil Support	C
A	BASE-X (FIRE) IEA	AZ National Guard	A
A,B,C	WESTERN SHELTER 3EA	AZ National Guard	A,B,C
A,B,C	JISCC 3EA	AZ,CA,MN,CO	A,B,C
A-29,B,C	CERT	Community Emergency Response Team	A,B,C
B	OCTOGON(FIRE) IEA	City of Phoenix Fire Department	B
C	BASE-X (MEB) IEA	AZ National Guard	C
Com Ex B	USAR	FEMA Urban Search and Rescue	A
Com Ex B	VERIZON	Verizon Wireless	B
Home St	COCHISE COUNTY	Cochise County Emergency Management	A



## Exercise Site Maps





# View From Helicopter



# View From Helicopter



# Feedback

## Positive

- Positive - good job from the COMLs utilizing other resources to accomplish their mission
- Positive - vendor accessibility was a good thing
- Positive - divisions would lean on each other to meet mission objectives
- Positive - enough resources available to be flexible and room to expand the operation
- Positive - free play day before exercise was very beneficial
- Positive - good mix of frequencies and modes in use - learned new capabilities
- Positive - good opportunity to learn the impacts of failure and what the capabilities of other resources are
- Positive - have a NIFOG expert on site was very useful to clear up usage issues and give educational information to players
- Positive - proactive thinkers and an excellent group of personnel present at the exercise
- Positive - while a COML (DIV A) felt he could have used his CERT team more, comments from observers indicated we had a nice use of them in our exercise.
- Positive - logistics went very well - positive feedback on food and accommodations from the National Guard
- Positive - participants liked the division format and mixing the disciplines since it represented real-world experiences
- Positive - scalability was valuable

# Feedback

## Improvement

- Improvement - limit the number of *people wandering in/out of command posts on exercise day* - very distracting
- Improvement - need to be careful about sensitive information while media was filming since some FOUO information was visible during media day - this could pose an issue during a real world event
- Improvement - players would have liked more time for MSEL setup - the overlap was difficult to work at times
- Improvement - some entities are still using legacy naming conventions making coordination difficult (Recommendation - follow national naming conventions)
- Improvement - spend more time developing capabilities profile for each asset which would help participants truly understand what is available (start early since this is a time consuming process)
- Improvement - to ensure clarity, publish datum/format for GPS coordinates to ensure continuity (WGS84/Degrees-Minutes-Seconds)
- Improvement - use tablets for C/E staff for better coordination
- Improvement - WEBEOC chat was a valuable tool - however, with all personnel at the exercise having access it made management difficult. For example, when a member of DIV A was communicating with their COML it was tough for Area Command to determine if the message was for the COML or AC. This chat also allowed some personnel to circumvent the command structure and bypass their COML. Perhaps set up a division chat, a COML-COML chat, and a COML-AC chat to maintain organizational structure and eliminate some of the confusion.
- Improvement - could have used more data play.
- Improvement - lack of delegation from COMLs - perhaps build in operational periods where we could change COMLs to give more player an opportunity to participate
- Improvement - COMLs seemed overwhelmed at times, players would have like more play down to the deputy level



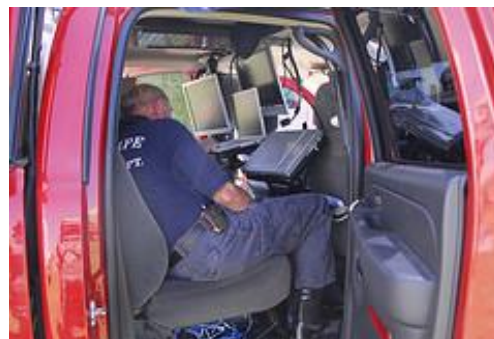




## Photos



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/azngpao>



# Contact Info

Jose Leonard

Emergency Services Coordinator

Arizona Division of *Emergency Management*

**[jose.leonard@azdema.gov](mailto:jose.leonard@azdema.gov)**

602-464-6342